



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

WISCONSIN COUPLE INDICTED ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHARGES

Brookfield pair is charged with holding a woman in servitude for 19 years

MILWAUKEE – A Wisconsin couple who held a Filipino woman as a domestic servant in their home for 19 years by threatening her with deportation, imprisonment and physical restraint, was indicted today on charges of human trafficking, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The indictment alleges that Jefferson and Elnora Calimlim, of Brookfield, used threats of serious harm and physical restraint to coerce a Filipino woman to serve as their domestic servant for 19 years. The indictment also charges the couple and their son, Jefferson Jr., with alien harboring for financial gain, and charges Jefferson Jr. with making false material statements to federal officials.

"Coerced servitude is nothing short of domestic slavery, and is both legally wrong and morally reprehensible," said R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "We take domestic servitude cases and allegations extremely seriously, and will root out this modern day evil."

According to the six-count indictment, Jefferson and Elnora Calimlim coerced the victim to work long hours seven days a week as a domestic servant for little or no money. The Calimlins threatened the victim with deportation and imprisonment if she disobeyed them, and confined her inside their home, not allowing her to socialize, communicate freely with the outside world, or leave the house unsupervised. The victim was required to hide in her basement bedroom whenever non-family members were present in the house.

"To hold another human being in involuntary servitude show a callous disregard for human dignity," said Brian Falvey, resident agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Milwaukee. "ICE is committed to aggressively investigating human traffickers who greedily exploit their fellow human beings."

If convicted, Jefferson and Elnora Calimlim each face a maximum sentence of up to 65 years in prison, mandatory restitution, and \$1.25 million in fines. Jefferson Calimlim Jr. faces up to 25 years in prison, restitution, and \$750,000 in fines. The indictment also seeks forfeiture of the Calimlins' house as an instrumentality of the crime.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of an investigation by ICE and the FBI. Attorneys from the Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Wisconsin are jointly prosecuting the case. An indictment is an accusation, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.